1997-98 SESSION COMMITTEE HEARING RECORDS

Committee Name:
Joint Committee on
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- > 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- > 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- > 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

- > Appointments ... Appt
- > **
- > Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule
- > **
- > Committee Hearings ... CH
- > **
- > Committee Reports ... CR
- > **
- > Executive Sessions ... ES
- > **
- Hearing Records ... HR
- > **
- > Miscellaneous ... Misc
- > 97hrJC-Fi_Misc_pt215
- > Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP
- **



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INDIAN TRIBAL UNITS

an economic development district.

MEMO

Date:

April 17, 1997

To:

Brian Burke and Scott Jensen, Co-Chairs Joint Finance Committee

From:

Fred Goold, Landscape Architect

Subject:

Retaining of the WLIP and WLIB

Hello. My name is Fred Goold and I am the Land Information Program Coordinator for the NWRFC

Our regional responsibility includes the north western Wisconsin counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Price, Rusk, and Taylor:

Since the inception of the WLIP, I have been involved with our ten-county land information programs, providing such efforts as developing county-wide plans, grant writing, and organizing a regional consortium to help achieve and share information for consistent regional land information programs.

Throughout the efforts of the WLIP and the WLIB, our northwest counties have, with minimal local financial resources, made great strides in the modernization of their county land records.

From our northwest Wisconsin perspective, we fell it is extremely important to retain the WLIP and its administrative body, the WLIB, which has been responsive to land records modernization programs in this ten-county region,

Thank you.

1400 S. River St. • Spooner, WI 54801 715-635-2197 FAX 715-635-7262



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SUPERIOR Superior, Wisconsin

Office of the Board of Education

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Joint Committee on Finance

FROM:

Louis Thompson, Superior School Board Member

RE:

The state budget bill

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you on this network and to consider our concerns as related to the state budget bill.

I am a ten year school board member in the School District of Superior. I am also a member of the Board of Directors of the WASB and represent 40 districts in Region 1 of northern Wisconsin. I am also a member of the Board of Control for CESA #12 in Ashland.

First of all, we appreciate the 2/3 funding source being provided to our schools and the tax relief provided to our property taxpayers. Please continue this commitment to fund education in Wisconsin.

Now for a concern.

Our board of education has been a conservative board through the years and has always provided the best education possible at a very economical cost to our citizens in the Superior area. At the present time, we rank 398th of 427 districts in Wisconsin in per pupil costs. Our costs are near \$6200 per pupil this past year and the state average is just over \$7200 per pupil.

Because of our conservative budget in the School District of Superior, we are locked into a low spending limit now with revenue limits as now operating. We need some kind of relief to enable us to maintain and keep our schools in repair and also to provide technology and the latest in textbooks for our children and youth. We must have some relief on spending restrictions in our schools or we won't have the resources to operate and our children and youth will be the losers. You have provided property tax relief, but you have not provided the money to run the schools.

One final request. Will legislators oppose the proposal to capture school property taxes to fund a new ER-TIF program?

Thank you

Yours Thompson We provide the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College

In August of 1982, the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board chartered the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College and provided it with Articles of Incorporation. Governance is provided by an independent Board of Regents.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs conducted on-site evaluations in April of 1983 and notified the college that it had fulfilled all requirements and was approved for funding under P.L. 95-471, the <u>Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1978</u>. This Act continues to be the prime source of funding for the college.

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College was granted candidate status for accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools in February 1987. This six-year accreditation process resulted in full accreditation of all programs in February 1993.

LCOOCC received Land Grant Status approval on October 5, 1994, in legislation passed by the U.S. Congress within the Tribal College Act Endowment Amendment. Menominee and Lac Courte Oreilles College join U.W. Madison as the three land grant colleges in the State of Wisconsin.

Students enrollment set records in the Spring Semester of 1996. The college had 481 students enrolled at the main campus as well as the outreach campuses in Red Cliff, Bad River, and St. Croix. The 481 students took enough courses to equal 418 full-time students. One hundred twenty six (126) non-Indian students were also enrolled. These numbers are the highest the college has ever had in a single semester and are strong indicators for the future success of the college. The ability to maintain and increase the student numbers will ensure the continued life and growth of the college as an established institution of higher education. See graph #1.

The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College has two fully-equipped distance learning studios. Dedication of the LCOOCC Distance Learning Center Studio took place on November 23, 1994. Governor Tommy Thompson, Senator Bob Jauch and University of Wisconsin Chancellor Betty Youngblood from Superior offered congratulations via the new system. In addition to the original room, there is a production studio located in the Academic Technology Center. The distance learning rooms have recently been equipped with an up-link satellite system. With this valuable tool, the college has the capability of sending programming to anywhere in the world.

This capability is in addition to the down-link satellite system which allows the college to receive programming from anywhere in the world. This advanced technology has made

the coilege a leader in educational resources for students. Both tribal colleges, however, are not included in the state proposed Badgernet system.

For all of the progress the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College has made over the past years, it has been deeply affected by budgetary constraints. Faculty and administrative salaries are low as compared to their colleagues in the U.W. and Center System.

Base funding is provided to both Menominee Nation College and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College through appropriations by the U.S. Congress administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Each college receives approximately three thousand dollars (3,000) FTE per Native American Student - no dollars are appropriated for non-Indian students. In addition, each college does charge tuition for all students. Both colleges actively seek foundation dollars and financial support from other sources. This however, is not enough to meet the increasing enrollment of non-Indian students. See graph #2.

Both Lac Courte Oreilles Community College and Menominee College initially requested fifty one hundred dollars (5,100) FTE for non-Indian students and we have since revised our request to the State of Wisconsin to provide the minimum dollar amount that we presently receive from the BIA, that is three thousand dollars (3,000) FTE.

See Graph #3 & 4

Lac Courte Oreilles 1995-96 Menominee Nation College 1995-96 100 (non-Indian Students) x 3,000 = 300,00088 (non-Indian Students) x 3,000 = 264,000

Total request from the State of Wisconsin is \$564,000 for both Tribal Community Colleges to provide quality education for all students in our college.

Both Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College and Menominee Nation College are members of the American Indian Higher Education consortium (AIHEC) made up of twenty nine (29) tribal colleges throughout the United States.

Similar request to the Michigan, Nebraska, Minnesota and Montana legislatures for state financial support for tribal colleges located in their state is either pending or is passed into law. It is indeed our hope that the State of Wisconsin will provide financial assistance to both tribal colleges in order to provide funding for the non-Indian students that matriculate at both tribal colleges. As can be seen from graphs 3 & 4, the 3,100 FTE that is provided to both colleges to meet the educational needs of Native students, once applied as administrative cost for all students is further reduced to \$2,202 FTE. Compare this to what the State is currently providing to the university and center system.

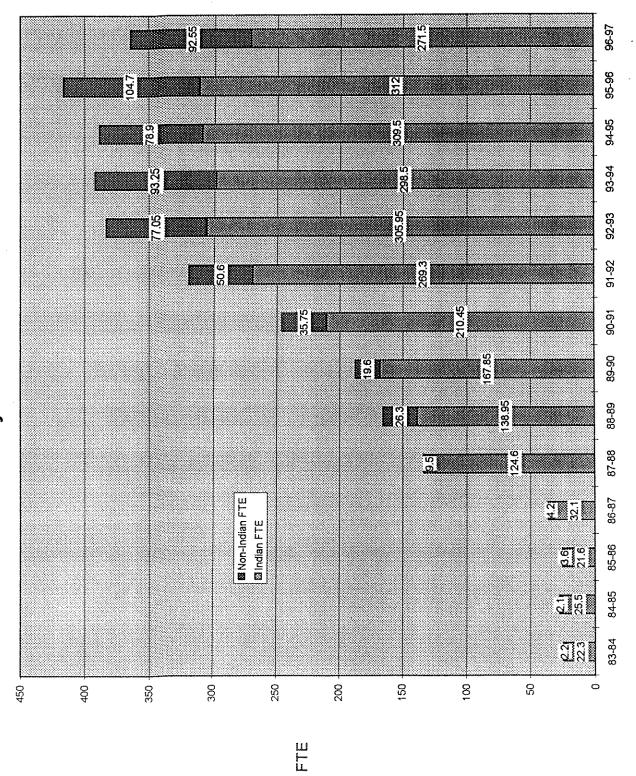
6670 per FTE State 3447 per FTE Federal

These conservative figures are based upon a report: <u>University of Wisconsin Overview</u>, prepared by the Wisconsin Legislature Fiscal Bureau.

Both tribal colleges are currently filling a void in the remote areas where we are located. For the first time, Indian and non-Indian students have the opportunity to attend a college; to receive the tools to open the doors to the future and to obtain skills to gain meaningful employment. This is especially true in the era of down-sizing and welfare reform. While others speak about diversity, we at both Menominee and Lac Courte Oreilles Community Colleges demonstrate it by the number of students that we graduate.

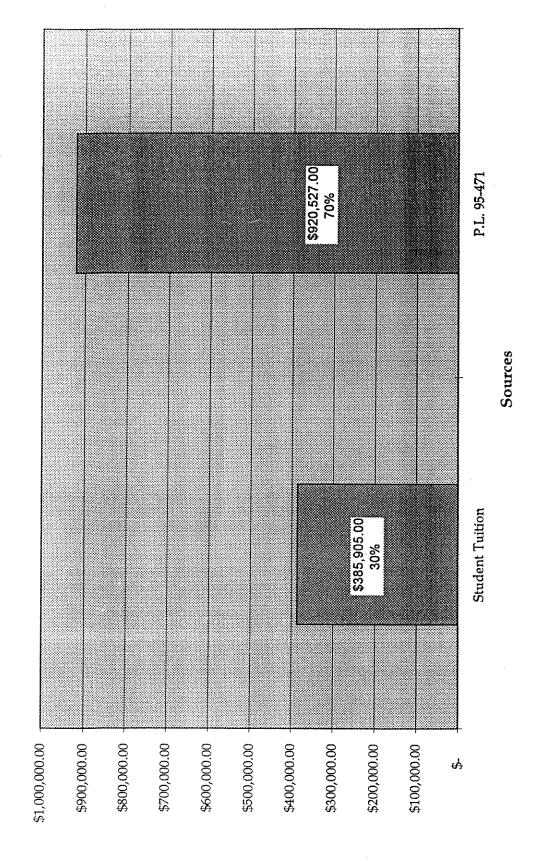
We respectfully come to the Joint Committee on Finance and request your support to strengthen both tribal colleges so that all of our citizens in our great state are provided the opportunities to receive a quality education.

History of FTE at LCOOCC

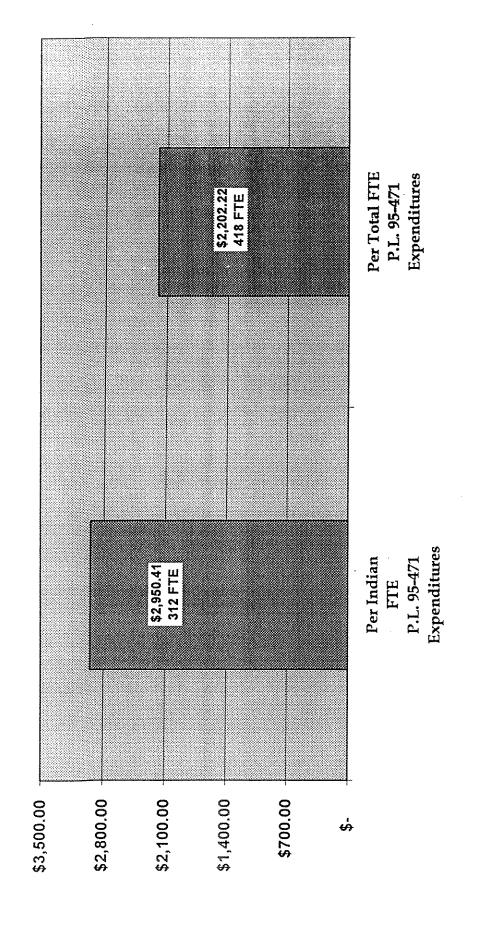


School Year

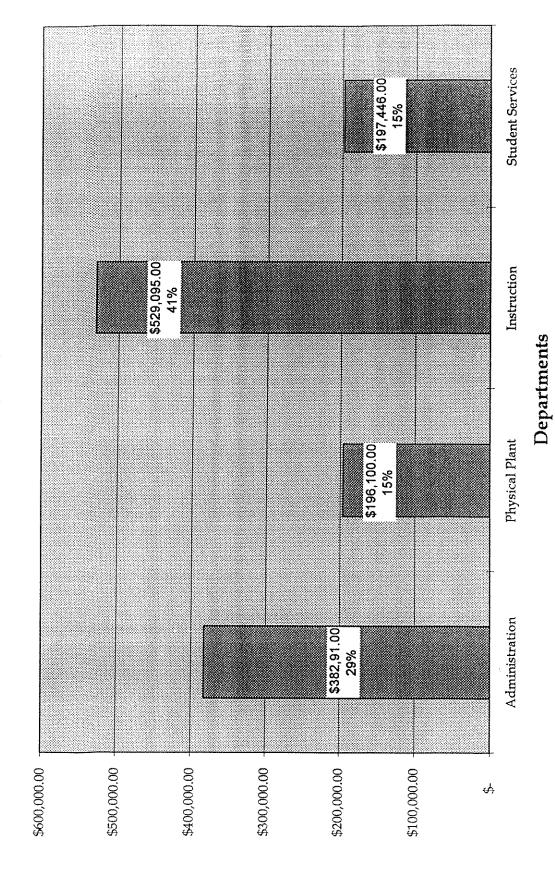
LCOOCC Revenue by Source



Expenditures per Student at LCOOCC

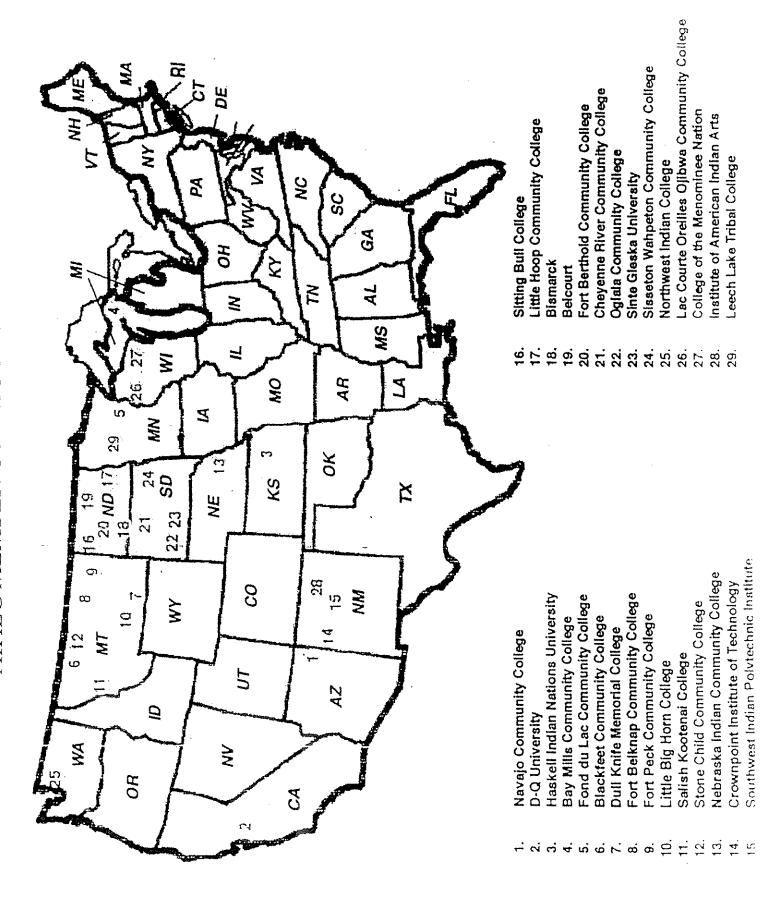


LCOOCC Expenditures by Department



Graph 4

AIHEC MEMBER COLLEGE LOCATIONS





Superior, WI 54880-2898

Testimony of

Charles R. Droege

University of Wisconsin-Superior Student Senate Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee Director

On the 1997-1999 Biennial Budget Proposal

Before the Joint Finance Committee

April 17, 1997

Hello, my name is Chuck Droege and I am the chair of the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee. I represent 2,600 students at UW-Superior and 140,000 students statewide through United Council.

I am here today to talk about faculty compensation and its proposed link to student's tuition. As I am sure you know, in the current budget proposal there is a provision granting authority to the UW System Board of Regents to increases tuition levels to fund faculty pay increases. The students of Wisconsin are opposed to this provision. More and more students are being forced out of school by increasing tuition and this addition would add to that number. By raising tuition to support faculty raises there is not only an immediate increase in tuition but a precedent that anytime UW-System does not want to pay for something it will be pushed to students in the form of higher tuition bills.

Right now I have friends who work up to thirty hours a week to cover their cost of education. Currently, their education suffers due to work, but with higher tuition they most likely wouldn't receive any education at all because they simply couldn't work enough to cover their expenses.

Furthermore, students do not want to see a link between faculty raises and tuition because it divides the faculty and the students. I strongly believe that our faculty is top class and they deserve to be compensated accordingly, but not at the student's expense. If the student's are forced to fight against the faculty and vice versa the learning environment on campus would severely suffer. Cooperation between students and faculty, a strong point on our campus, would cease to exist.

To reiterate, the students of Wisconsin urge you to not link faculty compensation to tuition and to invest in education.

The Town of Round Lake is in Sawyer County and located East of Hayward. We will celebrate our 84th birthday in July of this year. Jean C. Laier is my name and I'm currently serving as the Chairman of the Town of Round Lake being duly elected to the position at the April election held April 1 of this year. I previously served as town board supervisor for 13 years and chairman since November 1996.

I wish to address"ROAD AIDS". Roads are a big issue for Wisconsin Towns because towns maintain 61,000(sixty one thousand) miles of the states 110,000(one hundred ten thousand) mile road system.

Many of our town roads are NOT designed or constructed for the increased vehicle tourism and heavy commercial logging and truck traffic. Safe and cost effective rural roads are important for the economic and social well being of our rural areas. Legislatures and town officials should lead the way to make town road financing meet the travelers needs in the 1990's and the 2000's. We must protect our investment in Wisconsin's state/local road system by adequately funding improvements and maintenance activities.

The state's share of local road costs dropped from 25% of expenditures in the early 1990's to about 20% now. In recent years towns saw a slight increase in transportation aids received by them. Per mile payments were: 1994-\$1,275;1995-\$1350 and 1996,\$1390.00.In 1997 \$1432 and the DOT is now proposing to freeze payment levels at the \$1432 rate for the years 1998 and 1999. This forces towns to either defer maintenance or levy higher property taxes. Towns have always received less per mile road aids than other municipalities. The aids are used to help finance all phases of road maintenance, wages, equipment purchases and repairs, gravel, signs, culverts, asphalt and gravel just to name a few.

No one likes higher taxes but because Wisconsin must finance road mainteness ance on a pay as you go basis we support increasing state transportation fund revenues, provided that a proportionate share of increased funding be used to meet Town needs. If state revenues are increased we support broadening the state transportation revenues by increases in vehicle registration fees, including heavy vehicles and also establishing registration fees for all trailers. We would also support up to two cents per gallon motor fuel tax increase if proportionate shares of all state funds are returned for local transportation needs.

Local road aids should be increased from the current \$1432/mile to \$1500/mile in 1998 and \$1550/mile in 1999. We also support earmarking the bulk of local funding increases in capital improvements such as the Local Road Improvement Program. This program offers an excellent distribution mechanism.

Thank You for your attention and allowing me to speak on the subject of local road aids and Thank You for traveling North of Highway 29 to hear the Tetimony given here today regarding the Governors proposed budget.

Ms. Jean C. Laier Dt. 9 Bot 9181 Hayward, Wi, 54843

STATE

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BDITORIAL VIEWPOINT



Don't settle for less federal money

press release from the American Road & Transportation Builders Association recently provided details about President Clinton's proposed 1998-2002 transportation budget. While the Clinton administration says federal highway improvement spending will remain relatively steady over that 6-year period, the ARTBA analysis shows it would actually slash \$12.6 billion in real dollars when the proposed outlays are adjusted for inflation. The President's overall budget assumes inflation will grow 2.7% annually for the period.

The Clinton budget as sent to Congress shows cash outlays for federal highway investment declining from \$19.6 billion in FY 1996 to \$19.1 billion in fiscal 2002. The ARTBA analysis shows that just maintaining the current level of investment in real-dollar terms would require an additional \$3.8 billion in FY 2002, or an outlay of \$22.9 billion.

If such a shortfall is passed, it will be up to states and local governments to raise the money to keep the roads operable — or to face the music when irate drivers experience even more vehicle-destroying potholes and other road maintenance problems.

ARTBA's release goes on to say that at the same time the highway investment is being cut in real-dollar terms, income to the federal Highway Trust Fund would be rising. Annual income to the trust fund from federal highway user receipts would grow from \$26 billion in FY 1996 to \$29.1 billion in FY 2002.

The administration's planned impoundment of trust fund revenues to mask the true size of the federal deficit would result in a \$43.4-billion balance in the trust fund at the end of FY 2002, ARTBA found. The balance stood at \$22 billion at the beginning of the current fiscal year.

Can you do anything about this? I hope you'll contact your Representatives and Senators and try to prevent this proposal from becoming law. You can also contact your local newspapers, both dailies and weeklies, that drivers in your area read on a regular basis, and ask for their help in publicizing the problem. A copy of this editorial may help get them started. And, if you, or they, need more information about this situation, please give me a call at 214/827-4630.

Quan St. Stieger

Ruth W. Stidger, Associate Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Hello, my name is Dawn Marie Adams. I am a graduate of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College or LCO College for short. I graduated with honors in May of 1994. From there, I continued on at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. I graduated with honors from U.W. Eau Claire in May of 1996, earning my Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. I am currently employed full time as the Health Coordinator for six counties of Head Start centers. I also work part time at Flambeau Hospital in Park Falls.

Looking back five years ago to the beginning of my college education, I marvel at how things work out and fall into place. I was reading through a local paper when I came across an ad for a pilot nursing program at LCO Community College and U.W. Eau Claire. As my family and I had just made the decision for me to return to school for nursing, this was especially interesting to me. Well, I went to LCO College and without any hassles or delays, I was

enrolled in the program. The staff was exceedingly helpful and friendly. It seemed as if all of the staff wanted to see me succeed. What a comforting feeling!

After I had started classes in the fall, I found all of the instructors to be talented, caring, and dedicated to helping those students with a real desire to learn.

I had the desire to learn and I had the need to continue working to help support my three daughters as well. I had to miss some class time, but with the help of the instructors, I was able to complete each class in a timely fashion. This was very important to the financial health of my family. The staff at LCO college understood this, thankfully.

One of the greatest things about this college is the student to staff ratio. Unlike big universities where students sit in a huge lecture hall and listen, the LCO College is just the right size to offer comprehensive teaching and learning

situations. The availability and knowledge of tutors was also a great plus. I still am amazed at the talent of the staff within this quiet little college. What a privilege it was to graduate from there!

In addition, there were numerous extra curricular activities that helped me expand my mind, opportunities, talents, and to give a little breathing space as well.

Another of the benefits of attending the LCO program was the bridging of two cultures. I am a Non-Native American and even though I have lived on the edge of the LCO reservation for 22 years, I basically didn't know anything about my Native American neighbors. While attending LCO College, I learned Native American History, touched on some of the politics, and learned much of today's Native American culture. I would also like to believe that I shared some of my culture as well. As a result, I believe that I'm much more culturally sensitive and am a better Nurse as well.

As you can tell, I truly believe in the quality education offered at the LCO College and the only thing that would make this a better program for Non-Native American students like myself, would be the opportunity to receive financial aid. If I had the opportunity to receive additional financial aid when I attended, I believe this would have greatly eased the financial burden on myself and family. I would ask you all to take in to consideration my words. Thank you for your time and attention.



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SUPERIOR Superior, Wisconsin

Office of the Board of Education

MEMORANDUM

TO:

loint Committee on Finance

FROM:

Louis Thompson, Superior School Board Member

RE:

The state budget bill

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you on this network and to consider our concerns as related to the state budget bill.

I am a ten year school board member in the School District of Superior. I am also a member of the Board of Directors of the WASB and represent 40 districts in Region 1 of northern Wisconsin. I am also a member of the Board of Control for CESA #12 in Ashland.

First of all, we appreciate the 2/3 funding source being provided to our schools and the tax relief provided to our property taxpayers. Please continue this commitment to fund education in Wisconsin.

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Our board of education has been a conservative board through the years and has always provided the best education possible at a very economical cost to our citizens in the Superior area. At the present time, we rank 398th of 427 districts in Wisconsin in per pupil costs. Our costs are near \$6200 per pupil this past year and the state average is just over \$7200 per pupil.

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One final request. Will legislators oppose the proposal to capture school property taxes to fund a new ER-TIF program?

Thank you.

Thompson)
We provide the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Testimony of Peter D. Nordgren 11260 E. Timber Ridge Rd. Lake Nebagamon, WI 54849 715-374-3143

To the Joint Committee on Finance April 17, 1997 - Superior, Wisconsin

Subject: TEACH Wisconsin

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

My comments concern technical improvements to the TEACH Wisconsin initiative. I am commenting on my own behalf. My expertise is based in my position as Director of Media Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Superior; as Vice Chair of the Northern Wisconsin Educational Communications System, the distance education network in northwest Wisconsin; and as a professional educational technologist working in northern Wisconsin for more than 20 years.

The TEACH Wisconsin initiative is an important effort on the state's behalf to provide access to educational technology to all the state's citizens. I support the purposes of the initiative.

I recommend the following technical improvements to the TEACH Wisconsin legislation:

1. <u>Direct TEACH resources to assist those schools which pioneered educational technology, as well as emerging users</u>

As currently proposed, TEACH Wisconsin will provide substantial discounts to those school districts implementing new technology. It provides no similar assistance to those districts which pioneered and proved these technologies for the state. A number of northern Wisconsin districts have contracted for distance education networks at costs up to 1000% higher than the rates proposed in the legislation. TEACH should provide equivalent discounts to these districts as well.

2. Continue coordination and planning to avoid waste

Funding for educational technology alone, without coordination and planning, is one of the fastest ways I know to waste funds.

The distance education and technology consultants of the Educational Communications Board provide essential services. They deserve credit, for instance, for the level of statewide distance education connectivity that permitted the Governor to address students at Washburn High School during his announcement of TEACH Wisconsin.

Eliminating their positions, as the TEACH legislation proposes, invites poor planning and failure of other sections of the program.

Substantial savings in the TEACH program could be achieved by having it based in the Educational Communications Board. There is no need to create a new educational technology administration in the state. ECB has moved rapidly and effectively in recent years to carry out its designated mission in support of educational technology. That mission should be continued.

3. Technology requires support to be effective

The TEACH Wisconsin program would be more effective if it provided resources for technology and support staffing. Technology without adequate personnel to operate, maintain, and prepare users is another form of invitation to failure. The state cannot afford to waste its precious dollars for this important purpose.

AMM 4/11/97

North Country Independent Living P.O. Box 1245 Superior, WI 54880

> Senator Brian Burke Joint Committee on Finanace Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-788

Dear Senator Burke, I am concerned about the budget proposal by Governor Thompson The following are my personal thoughts and concerns.
Dear Senator Burke, I am concerned about the budget proposal by Governor Thompson and its affect on people with disabilities. The following are my personal thoughts and concerns.
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North Country Independent Living P.O. Box 1245 Superior, WI 54880

> Senator Brian Burke Joint Committee on Finanace Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-788

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Date: 4-17-97

To: Joint Finance Committee

From: John Nousaine, Director, North Country Independent Living, PO 1245, Superior WI

54880

715-392-9118 voice/tty

RE: State Budget

I would like to thank the committee for accepting testimony from the beautiful shores of Gichi Gummi. It's too bad you can't be here with us, It's a gorgeous day, the ice is out on the big lake and that's the beauty of being us.

I am basing my testimony largely on the results of comments by people with disabilities and people concerned with disability issues at public forums held by independent living centers in Northwest and Northcentral WI. These forums were held or are schedualled in the comunities of Washburn, Hurley, Grantsburg, Siren, Cable, Rhinelander, Crandon, Wausau, Stevens Point, Lac Du Flambeau, Merill, Antigo, Adams, Eagle River, Woodruff, Medford, Florence and Wi Rapids. While these forums are not completed a strong common theme has emerged;

More emphisis on supporting people with disabilities in their community's, less emphisis on institutional solutions. It's cheaper, it's more likely to allow consumers to continue to become taxpayers, it's what people prefer.

- I would like to start by thanking the governor for the repeal of the community caps and recommend that you support the governors proposal
- More COP. Eliminate the waiting list and restore act 469.
- Restore Community Aids to 95 levels.
- Transportation. \$2-\$3 million dollar increase for elderly and disabled transportation.
- ILC base level funding. Restore the increase recommended by the Dept of Health and Family Services. (\$200,000 annually)

Ideas for ways to fund these fairness amendments

This budget contains increases on the institutional side(\$132 million) that could fund the entire annual budgets of the COP and COP waiver plan. Cut back on the institutional increases put the savings into the community side. Other ideas include, restore Act 468, increase the cigarette tax, gas tax, used expected \$25,000 Liggett court settlement. Other ideas are in the fund the community promise.

Presentation of School to Work Plan

1. Introduction:

- a. Hello my name is Keith Hultman and I am the Wisconsin Region 1 Vice President I am also a student enrolled in the School to Work Program at SSHS.
- b. I am here today to discuss the concerns I have regarding the issues of School-to-Work.
 - i. The first issue I have is regarding the **proposed definition** of School-to-Work
 - ii. The second is regarding the **transferring of School-to-Work** from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Workforce Development.
- 2. Proposed definition of School to work is too narrow.
 - a. The old definition includes students of all ages
 - b. The new definition only states High School students
 - c. Career education is vital in the early stages of school. Today the school to work program works with students in all grades. Students in the Middle school level can participate in job shadow or mentorship opportunities. If the new definition only includes High School Students these helpful programs could be cut.
- 3. The transferring of School to work from the Dep of Public Instr. To the Dept of Workforce development could be detrimental to the program.
 - a. A vital part of School to Work is the School Based Learning.

am enrolled in a class called Business Occupations on the Job. It is a three hour class that prepares me for the business world by going in depth with the skills needed to succeed. I have learned how to prepare letters, reports, and other business documents with the use of various business machines. In the afternoon I work for the Superior Police Dept. The On-The-Job Learning experience gives me an opportunity to expand on the knowledge that I have attained at school. Both the Classroom and the On-Job learning experience give me an advantage to obtaining a job in the real world. FBLA provides programs to make use of both experiences. If School to Work is moved to the Dept of Workforce Development I fear that the vital Classroom activities and relating programs could be cut short.

Through FBLA I have gained more confidence in myself and have acquired many important skills. FBLA has given me an opportunity to improve my chance of success. I can only hope that other students in the future will be given this opportunity.

For the continuation of the School to Work Program and the opportunity for future students, do not transfer the School to Work program to the Department of Workforce Development.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.